



March 2005

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FREE

## Traffic Calming Plan Sails Through Hearing

By Fran Taylor

The public weighed in one last time on extensive changes to Potrero Avenue at a DPT hearing held Friday, February 25. Despite some neighborhood opposition to loss of parking spaces, the panel approved the plan with a charge to the planners to tweak those losses to a minimum. Speakers in support of the plan outnumbered critics about two to one, and even opponents spoke in favor of pedestrian and bicyclist safety. Supporters exhorted the DPT to implement the improvements quickly.

The biggest change proposed is a reduction in car traffic lanes from three to two in each direction. Space gained will go to bike lanes, pedestrian safety islands, and left-turn pockets. Traffic engineers who explained the plan at several community meetings last year pointed out that Potrero rarely fills to capacity and left-turn pockets smooth the flow by reducing sudden lane changes.

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## Pizza May Prove Key in Shutting Power Plant

By Matt Isaacs

Neighborhood Environmental Newswire

The promise of fresh pepperoni pizza was enough to assemble most of the key decision-makers responsible for determining the fate of the Potrero Power Plant in early February.

State and city officials, concerned neighbors, and representatives from both Pacific Gas and Electric Company and Mirant America, Inc. (which owns the plant), participated in a special meeting of the Potrero Power Plant Citizen's Task Force at Potrero Hill's Goat Hill Pizza to discuss how best to close the energy facility, which is the single largest source of air pollution in the city.

For activists, the news was encouraging: representatives from the Mayor's Office and the California Independent System Operator (ISO), which manages the state's power grid, reiterated their determination to close the largest generating unit at Potrero before the end of the decade. The key, they said, is to successfully site four small combustion turbines, or CTs, near the existing plant and at San Francisco International Airport. The city won the natural gas-burning generators under the settlement of a lawsuit against Williams Energy of Tulsa, Oklahoma. These

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Leaning on his vintage Mercury Comet before a row of industrial workers cottages on Tennessee Street, Christopher VerPlanck talks Dogpatch history.  
John Borg photo

## Meet Chris VerPlanck: The Historian Who Helped Put Dogpatch on the Map

By John Borg

Watching Christopher VerPlanck navigate the streets of Dogpatch from behind the wheel of his aqua-blue '64 Mercury Comet, one gets the feeling the dapper 36-year-old was born in the wrong era. Sporting a pencil-thin mustache, long dark sideburns, and neatly pressed vintage clothing — he looks as if he just drove out of an old issue of *Life* magazine.

But VerPlanck's obsession with the past goes beyond retro-chic style. An architectural historian and preservationist, his extensive research, writings and documentation have been instrumental in preserving the cultural and architectural heritage of the Dogpatch neighborhood.

Tucked away on the eastern foot of Potrero Hill, between Highway 280 and the Pier 70 drydocks, Dogpatch is a compact residential-industrial district that originally sprang up in the 1860s just west of the waterfront enterprises on Potrero Point. Residents worked nearby for companies like Tubbs Cordage, Western Sugar Refinery, Union Iron Works, the Bethlehem Steel Shipyard, and American Can Company.

Dogpatch is the most significant surviving enclave of industrial workers housing left in San Francisco, with buildings

dating back to the 1870s. Architecturally diverse, the neighborhood includes a range of industrial and residential building types, including Eastlake style cottages, Edwardian flats, and early Greek Revival examples. Dogpatch is now on the map, thanks in large part to a self-proclaimed "history geek" and a small army of volunteers he helped inspire.

In 2003, the survey VerPlanck wrote on behalf of the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association resulted in the area's designation as San Francisco's first historic district in over a decade. The study has attracted

attention from a wide range of influential preservationists, academics, planners and politicians. It was honored by San Francisco Beautiful, a prominent non-profit community advocacy group, for "preserving the beauty and tradition of San Francisco."

VerPlanck will break out his vintage bullhorn once again this month to lead a VIP tour of Dogpatch, this time for the American Planning Association's National Urban Planning Conference.

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The Hidden Streams of Potrero Hill  
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Two 50-Year Veterans of the Library Art Show  
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# Budget: An Assault on Our Values

By Nancy Pelosi  
House Democratic Leader

The budget should be a statement of our national values, but the budget the President submitted to Congress in February is an assault on our values.

It is an American value to promote fairness, yet the President gives tax cuts to people making more than \$500,000 a year, while drastically cutting children's health care. It is an American value to provide opportunity, yet the President gives tax cuts to the wealthy few while underfunding Head Start, No Child Left Behind, and student loans and grants.

It is an American value to promote community, but the President's budget has deep cuts in the Community Development Block Grant initiative that provides housing, health care, job training and domestic violence protection to low-income families in San Francisco and communities across the country. It is an American value to respect those who serve in uniform, yet the President gives tax cuts to the wealthy, while restricting health care benefits for veterans.

Finally, it is an American value to promote accountability, but President Bush's budget is deeply and dangerously lacking in fiscal discipline and does nothing to address the record deficit of \$427 billion.

The President's budget is not only fiscally reckless, it is morally irresponsible. It is a blueprint for financial disaster.

By contrast, House Democrats have put forward our New Partnership for America's Future, which reaffirms our dedication to six core American values for a strong and secure middle class: prosperity, national security, opportunity, fairness, community, and accountability. Our Partnership is with the American people, and honors the trust they have placed in us. It is about our responsibility to America's children.

In February, Democrats put forward specific steps to expand prosperity. That means providing all Americans with the opportunity to succeed and to live a secure and comfortable life including good jobs here at home, affordable health care, a growing economy with stable prices, investments in new technologies, and fiscal responsibility in government.

Our plan for jobs and prosperity will invest in America to create jobs today. Democrats support a robust highway bill to make an investment of \$318 billion in our highways and transit systems and create more than 1.8 million jobs over the next six years. Democrats support the Small Business Health Insurance Promo-



Representative Nancy Pelosi

tion Act to create a 50 percent tax credit to help small businesses defray the costs of health insurance and help put more Americans to work.

We support tax incentive to build the future economy. We support the Invest in America Act, which would modernize and permanently extend the research and development tax credit to spur more U.S. investment in R&D, which is critical to the Bay Area economy.

Democrats support wages that can provide for a family. Democrats believe that people who work full time should be able to support their families without being dependent on public services. The Fair Minimum Wage Act will increase the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour, providing an additional \$4,370 a year to 7.5 million workers across the country.

We promote fair trade and discourage outsourcing. We support sound trade and tax policies that create American jobs, value American workers' rights, raise standards of living, and end tax breaks that encourage companies to ship jobs overseas.

Democrats want to reduce our dependence on foreign oil by investing in domestic sources, including renewable energy and emerging technologies, to increase energy efficiency and reduce consumption. Using unparalleled U.S. technology and creativity, we will create many thousands of new jobs.

Democrats believe that we must invest in America and the American people. Doing so is not only morally right, but the path to prosperity as well.

Contact Nancy Pelosi's S.F. District Office at 415-556-4862 or e-mail her directly at [sf.nancy@mail.house.gov](mailto:sf.nancy@mail.house.gov)



## Pizza Power

Editor,

Goat Hill pizzas must contain some powerful ingredients that bring about solutions to complex issues. In September, I wrote an article regarding the "Conundrum" surrounding the power plants and energy issues we face here in our neighborhood. Well, it must be the sauce they used on the pizza at a meeting with ALL of the relevant parties in early February. While there are issues to resolve, the big picture seems to be falling into place.

PG&E is moving forward with transmission system upgrades that will shut down the Hunters Point Power Plant, CALISO is committed to a plan that will lead to the removal of a financial guarantee contract with Mirant who has acknowledged that the removal of the contract will make it likely shut to down their Potrero Power Plant.

The SFPUC has secured property for the CT project just two blocks south of Mirant's plant and the city is filing an amendment to the Application for Certification (AFC) on March 18, 2005. The AFC process will be complete January 2006. Engineering of the CTs (three in the city, one at the airport) will begin this April. Last week, the SFPUC Commission approved the CT capital budget for 2005-06. Equally important, the Commission is also continuing development of solar and renewable energy projects and is seeking additional funding to make this program even stronger.

Thanks must go to Supervisor Maxwell and her aide, Greg Asay, along with Jesse Blout of the Mayor's Office, for working to achieve both environmental justice and electrical reliability. Without the commitment from Gary DeShazo and Julie Gill of CALISO, none of this would have been realized.

As a member of the Board of Supervisor's Power Plant Task Force, I want to commend my fellow Task Force members on a job well done over the past five years. We will, of course, continue to monitor the process and ensure that we receive the very important mitigation package as part of the acceptance of the new CTs.

Joe Boss  
Minnesota Street

(Ed. Note: See the article on Page One for the latest developments with regard to the Power Plant.)

## Car Break-ins

Editor:

I currently live in Potrero Court and my car was broken into a while back.

However, my car is in a garage and we have a video camera which monitors the

garage. After talking to the homeowners association and the police department there was really nothing that could be done. I do know some cops in the city and maybe I should take it to that level.

I was alarmed to find out that it was happening to all of my neighbors and that nothing has been done to stop it. I wonder if there has been a study for how many cars have been broken into within the past year.

I hope that Carla and Ben, who wrote letters expressing concerns about the neighborhood in last month's issue of the View, will read this letter. Maybe there is something that we can all do together to get the crime rate down. Even with high tech security there is nothing that the cops can do to stop it.

At my homeowner meeting, there was talk about eliminating security since its costing too much money. I called the homeowner association and they didn't even call me back about my concerns.

Kristi  
Kansas and 24th

## I Liked That Cartoon

Editor:

I live across town from Potrero Hill (on the west side of Mount Sutro) but I still pick up your paper from time to time, usually when I'm shopping at Rainbow Grocery. I like to see what's news in other parts of the city, and your paper is the best of the neighborhood journals. I missed the original of the front-page cartoon about the praying man. Thanks for reprinting it along with the angry letters. I'm sorry you took so much flak. I found it mildly amusing, and I see how it could be mildly offensive. But BIG FREAKIN' DEAL! If people don't like it, let them turn the page. "Extremely offensive" and "disrespectful of the holiday season"? These people should get a life. By printing that cartoon, you were exercising free speech. That freedom doesn't merely apply to bland statements that offend no one. It covers edgy material too. So keep up the good work. If you're not offending someone, you're not doing anything worthwhile.

Rick Buck  
San Francisco

## ... So Did I

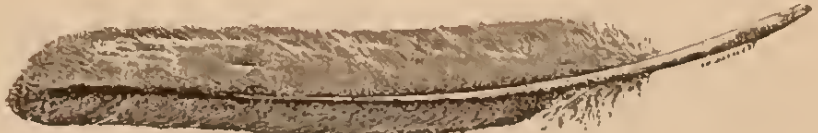
Editor:

I laughed out loud at The Potrero View's front-page Gonick cartoon (December 2004)—a light touch in a bleak month.

Thanks so much for my favorite neighborhood sheet.

Margaret Frings Keyes  
Wisconsin Street

We welcome letters from our readers. Please send them to us at The Potrero View, 953 De Haro St., San Francisco, CA 94107, or e-mail them to [editor@potreroview.net](mailto:editor@potreroview.net). Letters must be signed and include a street address as well as a phone number. Letters to the Editor are subject to editing for length and clarity.



EDITOR and PUBLISHER: Ruth Passen  
MANAGING EDITOR: Abigail Johnston

MARCH STAFF: Linda Clark, Pat Cleveland, Sandhya Dirks, Lonnie Ford, Bernie Gershater, Larry Gonick, Steve Kaufman, Denise Meblin Kessler, Marylouise Lovett, Julia Segrove, Maya Ulloa-Charbonneau, Mary Wasserman, Lester Zeidman

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953 De Haro St., San Francisco, CA 94107  
Telephone: 415-824-7516

E-mail: [editor@potreroview.net](mailto:editor@potreroview.net) / [office@potreroview.net](mailto:office@potreroview.net) (advertising)

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This photo illustrates the situation faced by residents located in some of the former marsh areas surrounding Potrero Hill where storm water exceeds the capacity of the sewers.  
*Jane Martin photo*

# Our Water Supply: Hard Choices Ahead for SF PUC

By Judy West

Susan Leal spoke to the Alliance for a Clean Waterfront at the Sierra Club office downtown recently. She gave up a cushy job as City Treasurer last summer, to take on a five-year appointment as General Manager of the SF Public Utilities Commission. The coming decade is crucial for the PUC and for San Francisco, with huge capital (construction) projects that will influence the health and viability of our city and the San Francisco Bay Area into the foreseeable future.

Nothing could be more important than our water supply. It is the basis of our high quality of life and is one of the main reasons the Bay Area is so special and capable of supporting a world-class economy. Because San Francisco voters control the best water supply in the state, which we share with many other communities, we must appreciate the key role we play in issues beyond our local neighborhoods.

After years of voter-mandated rate freezes, our system is in serious state of decay due to lack of maintenance and upgrades. Untreated sewage routinely overflows into the bay with heavy rain, and the water supply pipes for fighting fires are at risk of breakage in the next big earthquake across large areas of the eastern neighborhoods! Issues of environmental justice are paramount in the southeast sector, where storm water routinely backs up into homes and streets and our over-extended treatment plant on Evans Avenue unfairly pollutes the adjacent neighbors.

The potential and challenges before the PUC at this moment are staggering: relief from PG&E, smaller neighborhood power plants, localized water storage/recycling and storm runoff treatment, to name

a few. All are hugely complex and potentially expensive. It is crucial that SF citizens get engaged in these discussions over the coming months. The only thing Leal could state as new planning policies for the wastewater system upgrades was that separate planning departments have been established for each of the three main aspects of the PUC: 1. Power Generating Revenue; 2. Fresh Water Supply; and 3. Waste Water Discharge [author's titles for clarity].

One key focus of the Alliance for a Clean Waterfront right now, is to ensure that a panel of technical experts be available and *at least be consulted*, by the political appointees to the PUC Commission during their decision making process. These commissioners are often put in place for various important reasons but not necessarily because they are experts in waste water systems.

Water and sewer rates will be rising sharply over the next few years. Water customers should have received notice of public hearings coming up. March 2 the PUC will hold a preliminary hearing to address fairness issues of proposed new rate structures and rate increases for 2005-06, which will be on the PUC Commission's agenda for March 22. For more information contact 554-3289 or [www.sfwater.org](http://www.sfwater.org). Some ideas being forwarded by environmental advocates include sewer rate structures based on the percentage of permeable ground on site, to encourage individual property owners to divert rain-water away from the sewers and into the ground.

Jane Martin has become something of an expert on the process of opening up city sidewalks to receive water. Her side-

(Continued on Page 12)

# Potrero Traffic Calming Plan Sails Through Hearing

(Continued from Page 1)

Two controversial aspects of the plan are a partial bus-only lane and a mid-block crosswalk at San Francisco General Hospital. The transit lane was originally proposed by Muni for the entire north-bound stretch, but community opposition led to a compromise that will see a bulge from four lanes to five starting just past 24th Street and ending just past 22nd. Cyclists howled at Muni's original idea of placing the bike lane in between the bus and car lanes, and the approved plan keeps the bike lane next to the parking lane.

At 23rd Street, the crosswalk on the north side will be closed and moved north toward the middle of the block, directly across from the hospital, so pedestrians will not have to navigate turning traffic. Questions arose about wheelchair accessibility to the hospital at the new crosswalk location, but an SFGH nurse assured the panel that the mid-block entrance accommodates wheelchairs.

Speakers urged the DPT to address the few blocks at the north and south ends of Potrero that are not included in this first stage. Walk San Francisco, in a letter supporting the project, wrote, "... we urge the department to rapidly expand this project all the way north to Division Street and south to Cesar Chavez and Bayshore. The intersection at 16th Street

has busy foot traffic and transit use, and it is in great need of improvement. At the south edge, two parks used by children and others are bordered by unsafe crossings, and pedestrians must dash across the freeway off-ramp to reach Cesar Chavez and points south. Bicyclists using the new bike bridge are also stranded where they must cross this off-ramp and deal with heavy traffic to proceed north up Potrero."

In a related development, the family of four-year-old Elizabeth Dominguez, killed near Potrero two years ago, is charging the city with negligence and wrongful death. According to a story in the *Examiner* on February 11, the anniversary of Elizabeth's death, the driver of the Muni truck that killed her is still driving on the same route. Muni refused to comment.

Muni has been under fire in the past few months for proposing fare increases and service cuts. One possible scenario eliminates all community service lines, including the #53. Critics have suggested that parking and downtown development fees be raised instead, and the issue may come to a head before the Board of Supervisors soon.

*Fran Taylor is a medical editor and a member of Walk San Francisco and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition who lives a few blocks from Potrero.*

## 1948-2005

### Jimmie Ray Potts

Jimmie Potts was born in San Francisco, and spent most of his life in the city, much of it on Potrero Hill.

After high school, he worked at a variety of jobs — many of them involving driving trucks. Finally, he was able to purchase his own truck and begin a business. He spent more than 25 years as the sole owner of the Barbary Coast Trucking, and proudly saluted his friends by honking his vehicle's distinctive horn when driving past their homes.

Jimmie and many other teenagers bonded to Enola D. Maxwell when she was a minister at the then Olivet Presbyterian Church on Missouri Street. Later, when Maxwell became Executive Director of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, the youngsters followed and inspired her to establish many of the youth programs that exist to this day. Jimmie remained a fixture at the Nabe, and in the neighborhood, for the rest of his life.

Jimmie loved music, playing drums, and most sports. His humor, outspokenness, and sense of justice will be missed.



Jimmie Potts

He is survived by four sisters, a brother, a host of cousins, nieces and nephews, as well as numerous friends.

In Memoriam  
JOSEPHINE JUDNICH AIUTO  
1919-2005  
*Lifelong Resident of Potrero Hill*



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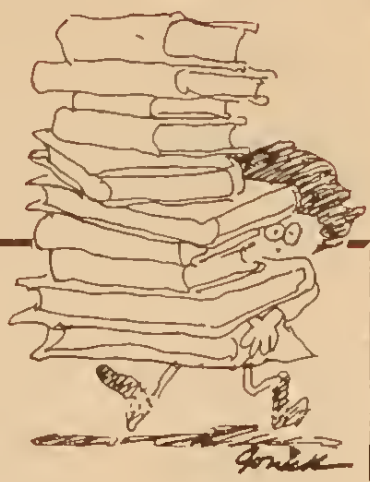
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## LIBRARY NEWS

POTRERO BRANCH  
1616 20th St. / 355-2822

Closed Sunday and Monday  
Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm  
Wednesday: 12 noon - 8 pm  
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm  
Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm  
Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm



### ATTENTION, HILL ARTISTS!

It's that time of year again! The annual Potrero Hill Artists Exhibition will open in April at the Potrero Library, and we want your art! If you live, work, or study on Potrero Hill, you are invited to participate in this non-juried exhibition, which will run from April 2 through April 30.

Guidelines include the following: each artist may submit one piece (no larger than 54" x 54"). Submissions which are pictures must be sturdily framed, ready to hang with picture wire securely attached, with the artist's name attached firmly to the piece. We will accept submissions of artwork from March 15 through March 31 during the library's open hours.

For a full list of exhibition guidelines and more information, please call the library at 355-2822.

### EVERYONE IS INVITED

Be sure to stop by the library during open hours to view artwork done by local artists! This exhibition is the city's longest-running art show and will be at the Potrero Library from April 2 through April 30. Since this year marks the fiftieth annual show, we will have an Opening Day Celebration on Saturday, April 2 from 1-5 p.m. Please come! Here is the outdoor schedule of events:

1-5 p.m.: Hands-on art & crafts activities by San Francisco Center for the Book and SCRAP (creative re-use art center)

2-4 p.m.: Live musical entertainment by the Apollo Jazz Group

2 p.m.: Magician Max's Magic Stop

2:30 p.m.: 50th anniversary cake

4:15 pm.: Dono the Clown

There will be face painting for children at various times throughout the afternoon. In case of rain, all activities will be held inside the Library. The programming room is not accessible by elevator.)

As noted in an article in last month's *Potrero View*, artist Charles Griffin Farr wanted to demonstrate to city administrators how important this branch library was to the neighborhood. He was instrumental in mobilizing artists, bringing them and the neighborhood together to support the library, and the first-ever Potrero Hill Art Exhibit opened in 1955. This year's exhibition will be a celebration of work done by local artists and the

legacy left behind by the late Charles Farr.

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We could use a few more folks to help in preparing for the art show and at the opening day celebration. If you are interested and free, please contact me at the library at 355-2855.

### IN PREPARATION FOR THE SHOW

The Potrero Branch Library will be closed to the public on Friday, April 1, so that the planning committee and library staff can hang the art and prepare the facility for the exhibition. Thank you in advance for your patience as we prepare for this annual neighborhood event.

### NEW CITY LIBRARIAN

This past month, the Mayor appointed Luis Herrera as our new City Librarian. Mr. Herrera will leave his post in Pasadena and start working with the San Francisco Public Library in April. He fills the position vacated by Susan Hildreth, who left in July 2004 to become California State Librarian.

### MARCH CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Tuesday, March 29 at 7 p.m. Children of all ages, come and join us for a program featuring the amazing Mark "Bonzi" Bunnell as "The Juggling Tornado"! This program is funded by the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library.

And here's the line-up for other programs throughout the month:

Infant/toddler lapsit, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes on Thursdays, March 3, 17, 24, and 31 at 10:30 a.m. For children newborn through age 3.

Evening films on Tuesday, March 8 at 7 p.m.: *Curious George Goes to the Hospital*, *Red Riding Hood*, and *Rosie's Walk*. For ages 3 and older.

Evening storytime on Tuesdays, March 15 and 22 at 7 p.m. For ages 3 and older.

Afternoon films on Wednesday, March 30 at 4 p.m.: *A Boy and a Boa*, *The Juggling Movie*, and *The Three-Legged Cat*. For ages 5 and older.

Please note that the programming room is not accessible by elevator. Also, contact library staff in advance for group reservations.

Jensa Woo

Potrero Branch Library Manager

# TEN YEARS AGO

In The View

### MORE DEMOLITION WORK IN SFGH AREA

Work has already begun on the site of the parking garage (23rd, 24th, San Bruno and Utah streets.) The south half of the block bounded by 23rd, 24th, Utah and Potrero has been put up for sale. The owner of the property, the Gladstone Foundation, having given up its plan to build a medical research facility, has decided to demolish several of the buildings on the property that were damaged in the winter storms.

### SEISMIC RETROFIT WORK CLOSES OVERPASS

Seismic retrofitting work on the 20th Street overpass over Interstate 280 will keep the overpass closed for two or three months. At 20th and Minnesota streets, the earth around the bases of a number of the supporting columns is being excavated. The excavations, 20 feet by 30 feet by 7 feet deep, will be filled with concrete. Some of the lanes of the 18th Street overpass will also be closed.

### 40TH ANNUAL HILL ART SHOW

Potrero Hill artists will celebrate the opening of the 40th annual Potrero Hill Artists Exhibition at a reception at the branch library April 1, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Artists who live on Potrero Hill may exhibit two works. In addition, work by children will be on display in the Children's Room.

### NEW HEALTH PLAN FOR HILL CLINIC PATIENTS

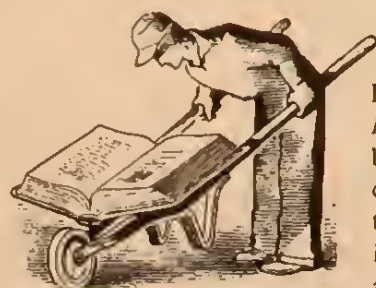
Last year, the state Health Department decided that expenses of health care for medically indigent people could be provided at lower cost if Medi-Cal recipients could be funneled into Health Maintenance Organizations instead of using stickers for fee-for service. Foundation Health Plan was the first HMO to be licensed by the State Department of Corporations to provide such services. Since it began marketing its program to Medi-Cal recipients, FHP has signed up about 7000 new members. FHP received criticism for its recruiting tactics, particularly among Medi-Cal patients who were not fluent in English. A requirement of membership in FHP was receiving medical care at St. Luke's Hospital, or with providers connected with that hospital. For many Medi-Cal recipients this would mean giving up longstanding relationships with doctors and nurses at neighborhood medical centers, such as the Caleb Clark Clinic, and SFGH. FHP has stopped door-to-door solicitation. Those who signed up without realizing they would not be able to use the local health center have been released. By April 1996 all AFDC-linked Medi-Cal patients will have to be in HMOs. The disabled who receive SSI benefits can continue to see fee-for-service providers. PacificCare now has a contract with the San Francisco Health Department. Medi-Cal patients who sign up with PacificCare can continue to receive their medical care at the neighborhood health centers operated by the Health Department and use the services of the primary care physicians and specialists at SFGH.

### BILL BAILEY REMEMBERED

Bill Bailey was posthumously honored at a gathering on March 19. Bailey provided a contemporary voice for the passions and actions of a generation of men and women who first fought for social change in the 1930s, and for many, continued fighting until the present. Bill Bailey was featured in documentary films, such as *Seeing Red*, a look back at the Communist Party, and *The Good Fight*, in which Bailey and other veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade recalled their years fighting against Franco's fascist forces in the Spanish Civil War.

AND TWENTY YEARS AGO . . . After a 12-year struggle, Hill residents finally accomplished the removal of PG&E's huge natural gas holding tank at Army and Evans streets . . . Neighbors protested a planned residential-commercial development at 23rd and Wisconsin . . . Good Life Grocery won a three-month extension of its lease, giving owners Kayren Hudiburn and Lester Zeidman time to secure a new location for the store . . . It was announced that the City Planning Department would be working with architect I. M. Pei to do most of the initial planning for the Mission Bay Project . . . The experimental traffic circle at the intersection of Kansas, Eighth and Division streets will become permanent . . . A "unique tri-level condo with 2 bedrooms and 2 baths on De Haro Street was being offered for \$139,000!!!"

— Bernie Gershtater



### THE VIEW AT THE LIBRARY

If you are searching for a story that ran in *The Potrero View* a long time ago, take a look at the bound volumes at the Potrero Branch Library which contain every issue from the very first one in 1970 through 2000. Also at the library are unbound back issues from 2001 to the present. All these materials are available for use at the library.







## GETTING INVOLVED

Dogparch Neighborhood Association meets the second Tuesday of each *even-numbered* month at 7 p.m., at 50 Tennessee Street. Next meeting: March 8.

PHAMB (Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit [www.potrerohill.biz](http://www.potrerohill.biz). Next meeting: March 8.

PHPA (Potrero Hill Parents' Association) meets on the first Friday of the month in the playground behind the Potrero Hill Recreation Center at Madera and Arkansas streets at 12 noon. Next two meetings: March 4 and April 1.

Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time starting at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. For more information visit [www.potreroboosters.org](http://www.potreroboosters.org) or call president Tony Kelly at 341-8040 or e-mail him at [president@potreroboosters.org](mailto:president@potreroboosters.org). Next meeting: March 29.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Informal discussion will be held on a variety of subjects relating to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's particular mini-climate. Call 648-6740 for details. Next meeting: March 27.

ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month with members of the S.F. Police Dept. to discuss issues of public concern. The Forum takes place at 7 p.m. in the community facility downstairs at 1800 Oakdale at Phelps. Refreshments served after the meeting. Next two meetings: March 3 and April 7.

SFGH Rebuild Updates, neighborhood meetings hosted by S.F. General Hospital every second Wednesday, 6-8 p.m., 2789 25th Street, Rooms 2001-2003. San Francisco must rebuild its only safety net hospital and trauma center in order to meet higher seismic safety mandates. Call 206-5784 for more info. Next meeting: March 9.

Starr King Openspace Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of each *odd-numbered* month at 7 p.m., Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. Next meeting: March 15. Volunteer for the Park work days continue *every* month on the third Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Next work day: March 19 at the park, Carolina Street, south of 23rd. Mail: Starr King Park, P.O. Box 880293, S.F., CA 94188-0293. Call 810-4900 for more information.



### Help Feed the Hungry

Martin de Porres House of Hospitality,  
225 Potrero Avenue (16th Street),  
is in need of volunteers.

We serve free food daily—seasoned with beauty  
and loving kindness—to those  
in need, and we have fun doing it.  
Weekly or monthly, even for a few hours  
will be a great help.

Please call 552-0240, ask for Jim or Charlie

# BEFORE THE INTERNET



### THERE WAS SOMETHING CALLED A BOOK.

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Three combustion turbines at a plant in Southern California, similar to those proposed for San Francisco.

## Pizza May Prove Key in Shutting Power Plant

(Continued from Page 1)

smaller units, which would emit less pollution, would replace the energy currently produced by the outdated Potrero plant.

Siting the CTs would enable the state to lift its multi-million-dollar "reliability-must-run" (RMR) commitment to Mirant, which, according to ISO, would make running the plant financially challenging.

The ISO enters into RMR contracts with energy companies to ensure power generation is available for the grid, especially in bottleneck regions such as San Francisco. The ISO revisits the contracts annually, and may terminate the RMRs if alternative energy sources emerge. Representatives from Mirant, while reluctant to make any promises, acknowledged that the company would likely shutter Potrero if the state were to withdraw its financial backing. "With the loss of the RMR, it's hard to imagine [Potrero] continuing to run," said Ron Kino, director of environmental health and safety for Mirant.

### A Balance of Power

Nearly everyone at the table agreed that elimination of both the Hunters Point and Potrero plants could only be accomplished with either creation of new generation or other utility system upgrades. Once completed, the Jefferson – Martin Transmission Project, which was approved by the California Public Utilities Commission last year, will spell the end of the Hunters Point power plant. Representatives from PG&E said construction of the transmission line should be finished by spring 2006, enabling ISO to remove that plant's RMR contract shortly thereafter.

Closing Potrero, however, appears trickier, as it depends on two unknowns: whether San Francisco will be successful in its current efforts to site four CTs; and what Mirant will ultimately decide to do with the Potrero plant.

The city has already taken years to designate sites for the combustion turbines. Officials expect to place three near

the Potrero plant, and another near the airport, but it will eventually fall on the Board of Supervisors to decide the fate of these projects.

Karen Kubick, project manager of the SFPUC's San Francisco Electric Reliability Project, said she hopes to have the CTs placed by January 2006, and running by summer 2007.

### The Final Question Mark

In the end, Mirant must decide what to do with the Potrero Plant, and neighbors worry they could be saddled with three new facilities in addition to the old one. "The scenario we fear is putting the peakers in, but Mirant doesn't close," said John Borg of the Dogparch Neighbors group. "We already bear a bad brunt, but it could get worse." The energy market could improve for Mirant, he said after the meeting. Or the city might need more power, presenting another reason for Mirant to keep its plant running — or even build a larger one.

Jesse Blout, from the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development, allayed some of those fears. "The city has no interest in siting new generation unless it shuts down older, dirtier generation," he said.

But even in the best case scenario, in which the peakers were placed and the state pulled its RMR contract, Mirant would likely find some use for its aging plant in the event of its closure. "What do you want to put in there, a coffee bar?" Steven Moss, Executive Director of San Francisco Community Power, asked at the lunch.

"We're looking right now at the best use for that land," said Ron Kino. "We have no plans to build something larger there."

Phillip De Andrade, the owner of Goat Hill Pizza and Chair of the Task Force, left the meeting with renewed hope that the Potrero Plant's days were numbered. But, he said, "No one should misunderstand: this community will not tolerate both the siting of the CTs and the continued operation of the Mirant Plant."





# The Hidden Streams of Potrero Hill

by Alison Fromme

Neighborhood Environmental Newswire

Once in southeastern San Francisco [there were] bodies of water that have as completely disappeared as has mythical Atlantis...

Unlike Atlantis, submerged in water by a cataclysm of nature, these waters have been smothered in earth debris deposited in them by the hand of man.

—William Grittenden Sharpsteen, California Historical Society Quarterly, Vol. XXI, No. 2, June 1941.

Water flowing down Potrero Hill follows the path of least resistance: around rocks, through gardens, via sewers, and — in some cases — under houses. When resident Don Stannard-Friel bought his house on the 200-block of Connecticut Street, a seasonal creek ran straight through the basement.

"The stream was about the diameter of a fire hose," he said. Water entered through a hole in the wall, traveled through a concrete gutter, and exited another hole. Today, Stannard-Friel has opted for a closed system of pipes to channel the water, thereby keeping the basement drier, and allowing for better use of space. Luckily, his "family of plumbers" helped with the project, saving him several thousand dollars.

All over Potrero Hill, as in most San Francisco neighborhoods, water seeps into basements, out of cliff-sides, and over sidewalks. Although Stannard-Friel's basement stream is a live concern, water flowed through the property long before the house was built in 1919.

Throughout the 19th century, San Francisco's coastline was molded and extended, creeks were filled in and built



This watery view of the Hill was taken in 1892. The house in the center of the picture is on the corner of Wisconsin and 20th streets. Courtesy California Historical Society

over, and water found new routes to the bay. Prior to intensive human habitation, water nearly surrounded Potrero Hill and Potrero Point. Mission Creek wound its way past the west and north sides of the hill, while Islais, Precita, and Pollywog creeks bordered the south side. Marshes encircled the waterways for hundreds of feet.

Today, it's difficult to imagine that Jackson Park's playground and ball fields were home to a 30-foot-wide pond surrounded by wetlands, where the late resident Julius Salvotti collected watercress for his mother in the early 1900s. Likewise, automobile traffic through the intersection of Cesar Chavez and Vermont doesn't evoke the creek that used to flow there, although PVC pipe lining the ditches of a

construction project suggests that water still lurks somewhere nearby. The families who will soon move into this new development may scarcely believe that their predecessors played in open waterways.

"We used to build rafts out of the leftover lumber from the mills and use sticks to push ourselves down the creeks," said resident Peter Luskatoff. For a boy in the 1930s and '40s, swimming in the bay and looking for tadpoles in the aptly named Pollywog Creek down by the train tunnel at Texas and Sierra streets provided endless entertainment.

"When it rained, it was a raging creek," said Jack Wickert who grew up on the hill in the 1940s. Building small makeshift dams and sloshing around in the water were regular pastimes. He recalls

that the creek even froze over during one cold snap, and he slid across it as if he were on ice skates.

Historically, natural waterways drained the land. Culverts today serve the same function, but constraining water in concrete deprives local vegetation — such as maples, redwoods, and willows — of water and sometimes actually inhibits proper drainage.

If current residents want to try to mitigate such problems by, for example, building culverts on their property, they must first get approval from the State Water Resources Control Board to ensure that the changes don't cause more problems for erosion, wildlife, or downstream residents.

Basement leaks and cliff-side seepage have made some residents wonder if underground streams are hiding below Potrero Hill. But that idea is misleading, according to Karen Grove, San Francisco State University geology professor and former Potrero Hill resident.

Geologically, the hill stands out from neighboring areas as a sturdy, 300-foot-tall lump of greenish serpentine rock. During its formation millions of years ago, cracks spread through it, creating small spaces where water collects today. The water doesn't flow like a river through the cracks, but it follows the fractures and comes out the cliffs, according to Grove.

Seepage isn't a sign of weakened serpentine, but it is a reminder that water flows underground as well as on the surface. In the early 1900s, residents tapped into groundwater for industrial and home use with wells that pumped more than 250,000 gallons of water per day in and

(Continued on Page 17)

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**SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY.** All events are free and open to the public and take place at the Main Library (unless stated otherwise) 100 Larkin Street at Grove. For more information call 415-557-4277 or visit [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org).

**Choosing to Participate: Facing History and Ourselves.** An interactive, multimedia exhibition highlighting three compelling stories in our nation's recent history: *Little Things Are Big*, *Crisis in Little Rock* and *Not in Our Town* designed to deepen our understanding of democracy and spark creative approaches to membership in such. Skylight Gallery. This exhibit and the following two companion-piece exhibits are on display through March 20.

**Participation: Visions and Voices of Bay Area Student.** Original art works from students in grades 7-12 that illustrate the importance of choices we make in our daily lives and the value of choosing to participate. Jewett Gallery.

**Bay Area Portraits: Everyday Acts of Courage.** Celebrating local people who have chosen to make our community a better place in small and large ways. Jewett Gallery.

**The Maltese Falcon at 75.** This exhibition, through March 21 in the library's International Center, is a tribute to Dashiell Hammet's most famous novel and to the city of San Francisco which he captured brilliantly and unforgettably.

**Celebrating the Life of Mary Ellen Pleasant.** An exhibition, through March 16, of artifacts, documents and photographs from the San Francisco History Center's collection includes Pleasant's handwritten cookbook and the pillowcases from her house at Bush and Octavia streets.

**Black Independent Film Festival and Awards Ceremony.** A program of four short films and an awards ceremony sponsored by Iconoclast Productions. Tuesday, March 8, 5-8 p.m.

**Women Write the West.** Bay Area authors, Merrill Sanders, Viki Werkley, Louise Freeman-Toole, and Gail Jenner discuss their writings and the American West landscape that inspired it, as well as read from their work. Saturday, March 5, 1-3:30 p.m.

**Crossroads: Irish American Festival 2005.** A spectacular lineup of Irish American music, literature, history and panel discussions are featured, including: panel discussion *Cops and Robbers: Irish American Gangsters and Gangbusters*; Musical Interlude; and *Irish Storytelling Now*. Saturday, March 12, 2-4:45 p.m.

**The Play's the Thing! Playwriting for Teens.** What does it take to write a play? If you've ever wanted write a scene or act in one, bring your ideas and work with other teens. Classes are taught by a WritersCorps playwright/teacher. Call 415-557-4497 to sign up. Tuesdays, March 1, 8, and 15, 4-6 p.m.



**Rubber Stamp Carving for Teens.** Eraser carving is a terrific approach to printmaking – immediate, accessible and fun. Teens get the opportunity to practice carving, produce several stamps of their own and then put them to use. For ages 13-18. Space is limited. Call 415-557-4497 to sign up. Saturdays, March 5 and 12, 2-4 p.m.



By Mary Wasserman

**ANNIVERSARY FESTIVITIES AT FARLEY'S COFFEE HOUSE,** 1315 18th Street, open 6 a.m.-10 p.m. daily. All events are free and open to the public. For more information call 415-648-1545, or visit [newsletter@farleyscoffee.com](mailto:newsletter@farleyscoffee.com).

**March Window Display.** Once again the wild and crazy collectors, Sara and Felicity, are back with a display of corporate icons.

**Artist of the Month: Donna Asturias.** This local photographer exhibits her work featuring vintage cars, seeking to focus her interest in design and composition around the theme that "less is more." Reception for the artist on Saturday, March 5, 6-8 p.m.

**Farley's 16th Anniversary and St. Patrick's Day Celebration.** Live Irish music all morning long, Thursday, March 17.

**Cory Comes & Friends.** Live monthly concert, Saturday, March 19, 2:30 p.m.

**Live Jazz.** The Stephon Alexander Quartet, Thursday, March 24, 8 p.m.

**Easter Egg Decorating Contest.** Big kids, little kids, all kids, decorate an egg and bring it in to Farley's by 10 p.m., Saturday, March 26. Prizes and surprises for all.



**ART ROSENBAUM SPORTS WRITING SCHOLARSHIPS** will be awarded to Bay Area high school juniors or seniors who have written outstanding sports related articles for their high school publications. Entries should be submitted by April 15 to Bay Area Sports Hall Of Fame (BASHOF), 235 Montgomery Street, 12th floor. For more info call 415-352-8827 or visit [www.bashof.org](http://www.bashof.org).



**JEWISH COMMUNITY LIBRARY,** 1835 Ellis Street between Scott and Pierce streets. Library membership and all events are free and open to the public. Closed on Friday, Saturday, and Jewish Holidays. For more information and hours of operation call 415-567-3327 or visit [www.bjesf.org](http://www.bjesf.org).

**With a Yiddish Accent: San Francisco's East European Jews, 1880-1950.** In Historian Fred Rosenbaum's engaging talk, the focus shifts from the dynasty- founding German Jewish families of the Gold Rush period, to the East European immigrants who created lively Jewish neighborhoods in the city. Wednesday, March 23, 7:30 p.m.



**RANDALL MUSEUM,** 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above Castro and 14th streets). Museum hours are Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission free. For information call 415-554-9600 or visit [www.randallmuseum.org](http://www.randallmuseum.org).

**San Francisco Middle School Science Fair.** Thirty public and private schools participate in this city-wide program designed to promote and recognize the efforts of student scientists. Entrants represent the best of over 4,300 projects done at the schools this year, with top 7th and 8th grade award winners progressing to the regional Bay Area Science Fair. The free exhibit continues through March 4.

**CRISSEY FIELD CENTER,** 603 Mason at Halleck in the Presidio. For more information call 415-561-7690 or visit [www.crisseyfield.org](http://www.crisseyfield.org).

**3rd Annual EcoCareer Day.** More than 20 professionals from a wide variety of environmental careers will be on hand to give teens the inside scoop on what their jobs are really like and how to prepare for work in the field. At the end of a day filled with hands-on activities, there will be an opportunity to fill out summer job applications or learn about internships and volunteer work. Lunch will be provided and admission is free but registration is a must. Saturday, March 19, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Children's Art Exhibit.** The annual "River of Words" exhibition featuring a collection of art and poetry focusing on the environment from children around the world will be on display at the Center's Gathering Room Wednesdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., through March 31. Free.

**It's Not Too Early to Plan For Summer Camp.** Call the above number to obtain more information and a brochure describing the varied and fascinating summer day camp offerings at Crissy Field.



**CONCERT OF SACRED SONGS.** The California Bach Society under the direction of Warren Stewart will present *Cantiones Sacrae* by Heinrich Schutz, the 17th century musician, at St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, 500 De Haro Street, on Sunday, March 6, at 4 p.m. General admission \$25; seniors \$18; students \$10. For more information call 415-262-0272 or visit [www.calbach.org](http://www.calbach.org).



**SAN FRANCISCO'S FINEST: SFPD & SFFD.** John Garvey, local historian, will present a talk about the history of the San Francisco police and fire departments at the monthly meeting of the San Francisco History Association, Thursday, March 24, at Mission Dolores School Auditorium, 16th and Church streets. Doors open at 7 p.m. for refreshments and the meeting begins at 8 p.m. Admission is \$5 for non members. For more information, call SFHA at 415-750-9986 or visit [www.sanfranciscohistory.org](http://www.sanfranciscohistory.org). Garvey's books on the subject will be available for purchase and signing.



**THE HARVEY MILK CIVIL RIGHTS ACADEMY,** 4235 19th Street, holds its 8th annual silent auction fundraiser. Great items, some of which are donated by Potrero Hill merchants, are up for bid, including hotel, spa and restaurant certificates, wine, art, and sporting event tickets to name a few. Live music and freshly baked goodies are included. Saturday, March 19, 12-4 p.m. For more information call 415-241-6276.

**CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES,** 875 Howard Street Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. every day. Admission: \$2-\$7; children three and younger admitted free. For more information call 415-321-8000 or visit [www.calacademy.org](http://www.calacademy.org). Events and activities are free with museum admission unless otherwise noted.

**Ongoing Exhibits:** African Penguin Colony (feedings every day at 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.), Touch Tidepool, Coral Reef, SSSsnake Alley, Steinhart Aquarium, ANTS (through April), and Scientific Illustration (through August).

**Things That Are Green.** Plants aren't the only organisms that are green. A sampling of green specimens from each of the Academy's 10 research departments will be on display St. Patrick's Day, Thursday, March 17, 1-3 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m. Stop by and learn why it isn't always easy being green.

**After-hours Third Thursdays.** Filled with cocktails, conversation, clownfish, and corals. Explore exhibits and aquarium displays while listening to live music and enjoying a no-host bar, Thursday, March 17, 5-9 p.m. \$5 admission.

**Birding at Coyote Hills Regional Park.** Field trip with Dan Murphy along the open waters, mudflats, marshes and uplands of Coyote Hills Regional Park at Fremont's east bay shoreline. The scenic site provides a richly varied avian habitat, ideal for an array of waterfowl, shorebirds, marsh birds, song birds, and raptors. For adults and teens ages 15 and up. Saturday, March 19, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; \$30 members, \$40 non-members. Pre-registration required.

**Bird Beak Buffet.** Learn about adaptations for feeding in birds by studying and comparing various bird specimens with the help of Academy naturalists. Wednesday, March 30, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

**The Greatest Good: A Centennial Celebration of the U.S. Forest Service.** Film screening. From the timbered shores of the Pacific Northwest to the marble halls of Washington DC, the choices about how we use our rich natural heritage are filled with controversy. Whether it is the protection of endangered species or meeting the needs of a growing public, the fate of public lands is constantly challenged by the constraints of democracy. Though this film is a celebration of 100 years of service, it is also a critical examination of the forces that have shaped the Park Service through the years. Wednesday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.; \$8.



**WOMEN IN WORLD II.** The topic for this month's meeting of the Older Women's League (OWL) features documentary films and memories. Saturday, March 26, 10:30 a.m. until noon. Please call OWL at for 415-989-4422 for location and more information. Admission is free and open to the public.



**CONSERVATORY OF FLOWERS,** Golden Gate Park. Closed Mondays. General admission, \$5; \$3.00 youth 12-17, seniors and students with I.D.; \$1.50 children 5-11; children 4 and under free. For information call 415-666-7001 or visit [www.conservatoryofflowers.org](http://www.conservatoryofflowers.org).

**Nature's Pharmacy: The Healing Power of Plants.** In this new exhibition on view through October 16, visitors will be taken on a virtual journey to Africa, Asia, and South and North America to learn about medicinal plants, their many uses, and the issues that surround them.






The Potrero Branch of the San Francisco Public Library presents

50th Annual

# Potrero Hill Artists Exhibition



April 2 – April 30, 2005  
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1:00 – 5:00 . . . Hands-on arts and crafts activities by San Francisco Center for the Book and SCRAP (creative re-use art center)

2:00 – 4:00 Live musical entertainment by the Apollo Jazz Group


2:00 Magician Max's Magic Stop

2:30 50th Anniversary cake

4:15 Oono the Clown

There will be face painting for children at various times throughout the afternoon. In case of rain, all activities will be held inside the Library. The programming room is **not** accessible by elevator.

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*The African Company Presents Richard III.* Front row (l/r), James Brooks, Marjorie Shears, Melvina Jones; back row, D. Anthony Harper, and Potrero Hill resident Lonnie Ford.

# Arrested for Performing Shakespeare While Black

By Brenda Berlin

San Francisco's African-American Shakespeare Company, celebrating its 10th anniversary, is currently staging *The African Company Presents Richard III* by Carlyle Brown from March 4-20 in the Buriel Clay Theatre at the African American Art & Culture Center, 762 Fulton Street.

This innovative play, directed by AASC's Artistic Director Victoria Evans Erville, explores a remarkable incident that occurred in 1821 in New York City. Forty years before Lincoln ended slavery and fifty years before black Americans were given the right to vote, a group of blacks formed The African Company, the first black theatrical group in America, and dared to present Shakespeare's *Richard III*.

Carlyle Brown's script, which he describes as "interrogating history," moves swiftly in and out of *Richard III*. We get glimpses of the African Company actors and the many challenges they faced – from the politics of the time, to their own theatrical needs, to extreme competition from a major white theatre company

opening their new theatre with a star tragedian from England playing the lead in – what else – *Richard III*, and ultimately to being thrown in jail because of their skin color for playing Shakespeare.

The AASC is the only company of African-American actors performing classical works of theatre. Executive Director Sherri Young, a graduate of American Conservatory Theatre's Advanced Training Program, recalls, "When we first started ten years ago, we had the same fears and doubts: 'Who would come? Would a black audience understand?' They seem to have found their niche, giving opportunities for over 30 African-American actors a year and making these works connect within the perspective and dynamic of the African American culture.

*The African Company Presents Richard III* will preview March 3 at 7 p.m., and then run Fridays-Sundays through March 20. For info, call 415-762-2071 ext. 1 or visit [www.African-AmericanShakes.org](http://www.African-AmericanShakes.org).

Brenda Berlin is a Potrero Hill resident and former co-producer of the Julian Theatre.

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# Performing Arts Roundup

## Iraq Stories

The Living Arts Playback Theatre Ensemble combines story telling and improvised performers, engaging in a dialogue between the dignity of personal experience and the narrative power of theater.

How do we, those whose dollars fund this war, know about what it is and what it means. All we have to rely on is government propaganda, and the specious coverage in a media that has proven less than informative and more than willing to be a trumpet for administration born lies. There is a real need to hear authentic voices, ones that tell a story from the inside, bringing to bear the light of experience on world events. Being detached from current events, from history as it is lived out, is a dangerous practice. *Iraq Stories* brings the voices of those for whom the war is not just watched on TV or debated in coffeshops. Those for whom the war has distinctly changed the narrative of their everyday lives. Included are the mothers of soldiers, both killed and serving, an Iraqi who has witnessed the war on his doorstep, and an independent journalist. The ensemble take their voices and breathe the life of acting into them, improvising theater pieces and providing a living art, a public forum for reflections and responses to this devastating historical moment.

Bear witness at the New College theatre, 777 Valencia Street on Saturday, March 5. Tickets are \$12-18 and can be purchased in advance by calling 510-595-5500, ext. 25.



## Eggsistential

Its an age old question-- which came first, sexuality or identity? Almost as perplexing as that old chesnut about the chicken and the egg. Potrero View resident Heather Gold turns to baking to sift through the flour and the answers in her one woman show, *I Look Like a Cookie, But I Identify as an Egg*. Described as an interactive baking show, she kneads the metaphors inherent in baking, making chocolate chip cookies with a recipe not found on the back of tollhouse chips. This one combines ingredients of heterosexuality (dry), lesbianism (wet), the left (mix) and other tasty 1980s tunes and secret ingredients. Yes, you get to see a interesting, thought-provoking play and eat your cookies too! Combining spoken word, stand-up comedy, internet structures, and audience participation, each performance stands as a fresh laid egg.

Identify as an audience member Sundays (except March 20) March 7 through 27 at 8 p.m. at the Hotel Rex, 562 Sutter Street. Call 1-800-838-3006 to purchase tickets or visit the website [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) or [www.subvert.com](http://www.subvert.com).

By Sandhya Dirks



Strong Current Dance Company's *Quiet Pressure* at ODC Theater, March 24-26 and March 31-April 2.

## Strong Current Presents Quiet Pressure

Strong Current describes itself as a dance company with a mission — the mission of an all-female company to explore political and social issues through the lens of feminism and the medium of dance.

Now Strong Current brings us *Quiet Pressure*, a choreographic rumination on the social expectations of woman as mothers.

This performance features the art and poetry of *The Sisters Project*, which focuses on women and children confronting poverty and homelessness; the installation *Pieces of Mind*, using chore-

ography to explore war; and CCSF Hip Hop dancers responding to incarceration in *Behind the Faces* and *Inside*.

All three performances use different genres of dance to confront different aspects of motherhood. But all three are bound by their use of dance to give voice to that which can not always be spoken. Strong Current Dance Company performs *Quiet Pressure* at ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street from March 24-26 and March 31-April 2 at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$18-20. For tickets and more information call 415-863-9834.

## Blood Relative

Traveling Jewish Theatre reconvenes its international ensemble of performers and writers this winter to complete its three-year theatrical collaboration on the Middle East. The product is *Blood Relative*, a story that focuses on a character with a Jewish mother and a Muslim father. Claimed by both cultures, he embodies the ongoing struggle over the land known as Israel/Palestine. The world premiere runs at the Traveling Jewish Theatre, 470 Florida Street, March 17 through April 17. Performances are Thursday through Saturdays at 8 pm, and Sundays at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12-35. For reservations or additional information call 415-285-8080 or visit [www.atjt.com](http://www.atjt.com).



## Fontastique

*The Typographer's Dream* is the kind of play one might go see based on the title alone, choosing to ignore that old adage about a book and its cover. But we are here to give you a little more information about this dreamscape of letters and fonts.

Presented by the Encore Theatre Company and written by Adam Bock, it promises to give a human face to typeface. The story centers around the friendship between a typographer, a geographer, and a stenographer obsessing over their professions and their identities, sometimes blurring the line between the two.

See *The Typographer's Dream* at The Thick House, 1695 18th Street. Performances run through April 3, and are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m., Sundays at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$20-25 and can be purchased at 415-821-4849 or visit [www.encoretheatrecompany.com](http://www.encoretheatrecompany.com).

## Smile at Noh Space

Theater of Yugen's monthly series at Noh Space returns with a smile. *Smile* is described as an incident of experience and memories excavated through the body, and while this sounds painful, it references the urban landscape in which we dwell. The common ground of *Smile* is the Mission District, with its Latino influence, its own brand of hipster, and its boggling mix of cheap and guache, "bougie" and expensive. Each performer takes their own experience for movement, bringing it to the table to create a banquet of grins entitled Metropolitan Butoh. The resulting performance is the fruit of a weekly session called Mission Butoh, a class spearheaded by Molly Barrons. Barrons not only uses Butoh to teach her students to explore and express their inner and urban existence, she also fiercely believes in Butoh as a way of life.

See urban Butoh in the Mission at Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa Street, Monday and Tuesday, March 14 and 15 at 8 p.m. tickets are \$10-15 and can be purchased by calling 415-621-7978, or visiting [www.theatreofyugen.org](http://www.theatreofyugen.org).



Aasif Mandvi in *Guantanamo* at The Brava Theater. Brian Michael Thomas photo

## Guantanamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom

Where are the enemy combatants now? While our government may not be able to give us an answer, *Guantanamo: Honor Bound To Defend Freedom*, brings them to center stage. The play is drawn from interviews of prisoners and their families, U.S. and British officials, and others touched by this human rights disaster. The play promises to bear witness to those who have no recourse from justice, and to provide a voice for those

who have been silenced. Written by Victoria Brittain and Gillian Slovo from spoken evidence, *Guantanamo* has its San Francisco premiere at Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th St., March 23 through April 17, Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 and 8 p.m.

Tickets range from \$25 through 30 and can be purchased by calling 415-647-2822.





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# VerPlanck and Dogpatch

(Continued from Page 1)

Aaron Peskin, an avid preservationist and president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, has taken the Dogpatch tour with VerPlanck. He said the neighborhood's working-class story is a compelling one, and the passionate but professional VerPlanck is a great person to tell it.

"Dogpatch is one of San Francisco's truly unique neighborhoods, but it was underappreciated and largely unknown," said Peskin, who joined Supervisor Sophie Maxwell and neighborhood activists to help push through the Dogpatch Historic District legislation in February 2003. "The incredible body of research Chris compiled provided clear validation of the neighborhood's contribution to the architectural and cultural legacy of San Francisco. Without that research, there would not be a Dogpatch historic district."

When asked about the accomplishments, VerPlanck gently deflects credit, naming a list of neighbors, preservationists, and city officials who helped along the way. His egalitarian response is very much in character for someone so troubled by the gold rush mentality he encountered in San Francisco during the late 1990s, when he joined neighbors in their quest to save the soul of Dogpatch.

"I always liked my grandparents generation better — the way they dressed, the way they lived, the way they decorated their homes. I really don't care so much for modern culture, for the morals and manners you see today," he says. "I appreciate the quality of old things and the way they were built to last."

VerPlanck's grandfather was a hard-scrabble Dustbowl refugee who moved from Oklahoma to California in the 1930s, making his living as a lineman, and then as a rancher, in the San Luis Obispo area. His grandmother, a London native who survived countless World War II bombing raids, met her husband while he was serving overseas during the war.

The struggles of his grandparent's generation, and his family's historical ties to blue collar work, never left him.

After growing up on the San Mateo peninsula, VerPlanck moved to rural Maine when he was a teenager. He enjoyed the rich history and small town atmosphere that Maine had to offer, but fascination and family ties kept him connected to San Francisco. "I wanted to get back as soon as I could," he says.

While pursuing his master's degree in architectural history at the University of Virginia in 1996, VerPlanck decided to write his thesis on a politically inspired native San Francisco architect, John Cotter Pelton Jr., who was prominent in the late 19th century. VerPlanck did not realize it at the time, but this scholarly research would eventually lead him to Dogpatch, a neighborhood he didn't even know existed.

Pelton designed Victorian cottages for the immigrant laborers who worked throughout the city, including the Potrero District. He was a progressive who wanted to improve the lot of working people, and he believed tenement housing was inherently bad. Pelton was so intent on seeing working class citizens move out of tenement housing that between 1880 and 1883 he published the architectural plans for his inexpensive workers cottages, free of charge, in the San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, so that anyone could build them.

The plans proved hugely popular. By the 1890s hundreds of Pelton homes were built throughout the city's working class neighborhoods, many occupied by Irish, Italian, and German immigrant families. VerPlanck knew that most of the Pelton dwellings would have been destroyed by the 1906 earthquake and fire, and by subsequent gentrification, but in 1996 he left Virginia and traveled to San Francisco to see if he could find any.

An uncle, who grew up in the city and knew its every alleyway, told Chris he

(Continued on Page 19)

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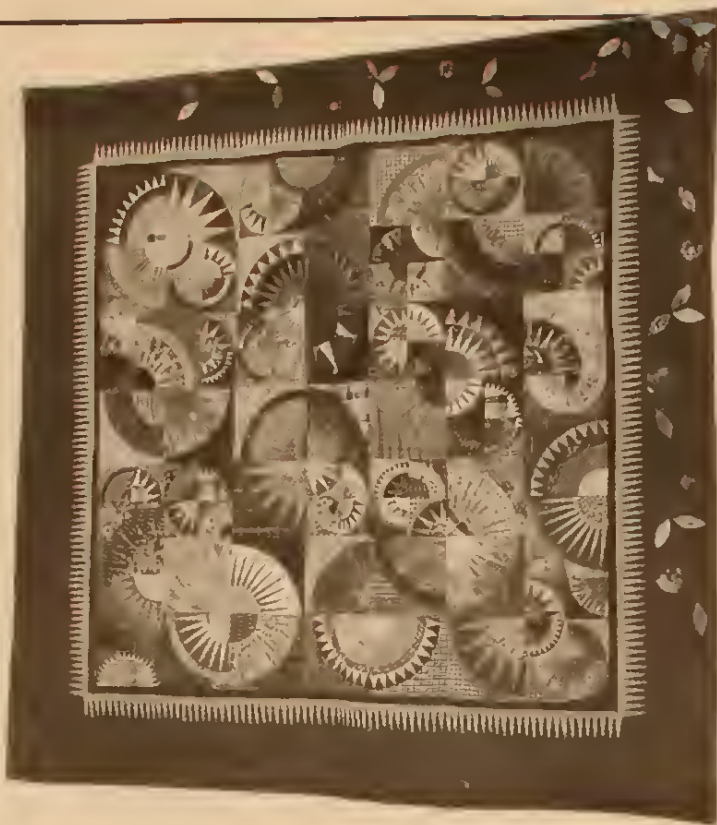
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Leah Segal coordinated the design and construction of this dazzling quilt using a variety of sizes and adaptations of the New York Beauty quilt block, which dates back to the 1840s. This design is also known as Rocky Mountain, Crown of Thorns, and Sunrise. For an opportunity to win this quilt, tickets may be purchased for \$1 each or six for \$5. The winner will be announced at The San Francisco Quilters Guild Show on Sunday, March 6. For tickets or additional info, call Debbie Deal at 415-548-7171.

## Quilt Show at the Concourse

The San Francisco Quilters Guild will present its 11th biennial show, this year titled "Symphony of Color" at the Concourse Exhibition Center, 635 Eighth Street on Saturday and Sunday, March 5 and 6. Hundreds of top quality quilts made by local quilters will be on display. Featured artists include Bay Area residents Miriam Nathan-Roberts and Flo Oy Wong.

In addition, there will be a display of antique quilts, a gallery of quilts made by past presidents of the Guild, several quilt challenges: "Masks on Parade," Journal Quilts and Block Quilts.

The balance of the show will showcase quilts and wearable arts created by over 270 Guild members. Hand quilting will be demonstrated by Dorcas quilters, a local group that meets weekly. Both featured artists Nathan-Roberts and Wong will give a "walk through lecture" of their works. A docent tour of the antique quilt exhibit is also scheduled. A spectacular colorful quilt, "New York Beauties" will be raffled off on Sunday, March 6.

Miriam Nathan-Roberts' work has been widely exhibited and she has won awards throughout the United States and in Japan, Canada, The Netherlands, Sweden, and France. Known for a series of

dazzling art quilts featuring optical illusions of three-dimensional forms, her quilt, "Changing Planes" is included in the book *The Twentieth Century's 100 Best American Quilts*. Roberts is also an accomplished painter.

Bay Area conceptual artist Flo Oy Wong will exhibit portions of two of her latest works. "Rice Sacks for My Siblings" is the story of the help that neighbors gave to sustain Wong's family as her father was recovering from being shot. The second work is entitled: "1942: Luggage From Home to Camp," are some of the things that Japanese Americans carried in the one allotted suitcase per person to internment camp. The "1942" exhibit was created in collaboration with the Japanese American Museum in San Jose. Wong's art has been exhibited at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York City, the Angel Island Immigration Station and many venues in the Bay Area.

Show hours are March 5, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., March 6, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Admission is

\$8. Saturday admission allows return on Sunday at no additional charge. Children under 12 years of age admitted free when accompanied by a paying adult.

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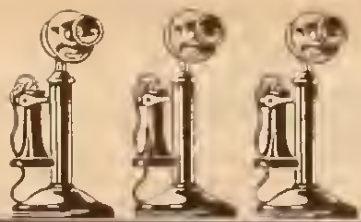
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Potrero Library .....	355-2822
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Supervisor Sophie Maxwell .....	554-7670
Tree Problems .....	695-2162
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# Our Water Supply: Hard Choices Ahead for SF PUC

(Continued from Page 3)

walk is pictured in the photo accompanying this story. She has started an initiative called PLANT (Permeable Landscape As Neighborhood Treasure) with information on the web to help people green their sidewalks. She maintains that a massive impact can be had through numerous, small and individual interventions across key areas of the city. Click on "planting" at [www.shiftdesignstudio.com](http://www.shiftdesignstudio.com).

Open soil along our eastern shoreline, as well as inland greenways, could capture and treat substantial amounts of street run-off during the problematic heavy rains. The Neighborhood Parks Council has begun to focus attention on the eastern waterfront as the industrial areas surrounding Potrero Hill undergo transition. Isabel Wade, the Director of NPC maintains that the eastern waterfront has the public land available to provide an open space system to rival Golden Gate Park, if we have the will to pull all the needed constituents together. Imagine the transformation of our city if widespread efforts were made to open swaths of concrete, replaced with green trees, etc.

Currently, our Southeast Treatment Plant treats over 80 percent of the city's waste water, due to a pump system bringing waste water there from far reaching corners of the City. It would be interesting to calculate how much concrete would

need to be removed and made permeable, in order to reduce the street run-off sent to the Southeast Plant to a manageable level. Does San Francisco have the foresight and political will to insist upon innovative and environmentally sustainable alternatives, or will we put all our money into massive, costly upgrades of the same old technology?

Leal was very clear that any new policies for the PUC will have to stand the rest of economics. In order for the environmentally sustainable solutions to become the PUC's priority, individuals will need to take greater responsibility for our own contributions to the problem. These all require a substantial shift in priorities for the PUC toward more numerous, small scale projects spread across the city, and less dependence on the big, centralized systems with high operating costs. Hopefully the PUC can help build incentives to encourage lots of individuals to also be a part of the solution, and start digging up concrete!

When your water bill starts affecting your pocketbook, you too may start looking for ways to capture and recycle the rain from your gutters and into your expanded garden! Every bit helps. Be a part of the solution not the problem. Get engaged! Attend the rate hearings this month.

*Judy West, a geologist and land use consultant, lives of the west slope of Potrero Nuevo.*

### MUNI PASSES AT NABE

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John Connolly

## Two Art Exhibit Veterans – Still Showing 50 Years Later

On Saturday, April 2, San Francisco's longest running annual art show will celebrate its 50th anniversary at the Potrero Branch Library.

Joining the scores of Hill artists whose works will be on display will be two veterans of the event – John Connolly and Henri Marie-Rose.

In 1955, when the Potrero Branch was threatened with closure, Connolly and Marie-Rose worked with the late Charles Griffin Farr to support the library by mounting an art exhibition that would demonstrate to the importance of the branch to the community. Together they organized and helped hang and display the works of other Hill artists in the first open, non-juried library show on the premises at the library on 20th Street.

For a half-century, Connolly and Marie-Rose have continued to participate in and display their works at the popular event.

John Connolly and his wife came to the Hill in 1952, and they raised a daughter in their house on De Haro Street. Henri Marie-Rose and his wife have also lived on the Hill since 1952, and raised two sons at their Missouri Street home. Marie-Rose often adds to the festivities at the library show by singing the songs of his native Martinique, a French island in the Caribbean.

Opening day activities slated for this very special exhibition will take place both



Henri Marie-Rose

*Ruth Passen photos*

inside the library and, weather permitting, outside on 20th Street between Connecticut and Arkansas streets from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 2. For details of the day's scheduled events, see the Library News column on Page 4, and the announcement on Page 8. Artists living, working, or studying on the Hill are invited to participate; for details see "Attention! Potrero Hill Artists!" on this or call the library at 415-355-2822



## ATTENTION! POTRERO HILL ARTISTS!

Artists who live, work, or study on Potrero Hill are invited to participate in the **50<sup>th</sup> Annual Potrero Hill Artists Exhibition**, April 2 through April 30, 2005 at the Potrero Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

This exhibition is non-juried. Guidelines include the following:

- Submissions which are pictures must be sturdily framed, ready to hang with picture wire securely attached, with the work's title, medium, and artist's name firmly attached.
- Each artist may submit one piece. Please, no submissions larger than 54" x 54" in size.
- Artwork will be accepted from March 15 through March 31, 2005 during the library's open hours (Tue 10-8, Wed 12-8, Thu 10-6, Fri & Sat 1-6).

For full details, please contact library staff at 1616 - 20<sup>th</sup> Street, phone (415) 355-2822.



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Pre-schoolers Patrick McQuaid (foreground) and Fionne Byrne at the Potrero Hill Nursery School at St. Gregory's Church on De Haro and Mariposa streets.

Gail Mallimson photo

## Friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School Host "Swing Into Spring" Gala Event

The parents and Friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School are hosting an evening of music, food, drinks, and a silent auction on Saturday, March 5 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House at 953 De Haro Street.

Featuring a Swing Dance Lesson and Demo by the Metronome Ballroom at 7:15 p.m. and a rollicking performance by the Lipsey Mountain Spring Band at 9 p.m., the evening promises to be an entertaining night out on the town.

The school has also collected an amazing array of items for a silent auction held at the event, including original artwork, vacation getaways, gift certificates to local stores, restaurants, and salons, and many other valuable items. The auction will close at 8:45 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served, and beer and wine will be available on a donation basis.

The "Swing into Spring" event will support the expansion and relocation of Potrero Hill Nursery School, which has

been located in St. Gregory's Church on De Haro and Mariposa streets for the last nine years. Inspired by the Waldorf tradition and operating as a non-profit organization, the school welcomes all students on a sliding scale basis. Small and intimate, it is a nurturing environment for the community's children. At present, the school is still searching for the perfect space for its new home, and is hoping to be able to stay on Potrero Hill.

The parents and friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School would like to invite everyone in the community to join them on March 5 for a fun-filled evening in support of the school. Tickets for the event are \$20 in advance, or \$25 at the door, and can be purchased by calling 648-5019 or 647-7471. More information about the event and a full list of auction items is available at [www.archetypicalproductions.com/foph](http://www.archetypicalproductions.com/foph).

— Gail Mallimson and Teddy Kellam  
Parents of children attending  
Potrero Hill Nursery School



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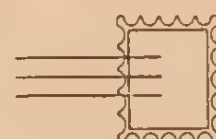
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According to the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), a tree's value is based on four factors: tree size, tree type, tree condition, and overall tree location based on its functional and aesthetic purposes. A professional tree and landscape appraiser can determine where your trees or plants fall under these categories.

While it's impossible to prevent storms, accidents, and air pollution from causing damage to your trees and plants, it is possible to recapture your landscape losses through an insurance claim, or as a deduction from federal income taxes, advises ISA.

If your trees and landscape are damaged, ISA recommends that you:

- Contact your homeowner's insurance company.
- Have the insurance company send a professional tree and landscaping appraiser out to your property immediately after the damage has occurred.
- Have the appraiser determine your financial loss, including the cost of removal and repair.
- Contact a local ISA Certified Arborist if repair or replacement is needed.

Just as you would with any other valuable asset, document your investment in landscaping to help establish its worth. ISA suggests taking pictures of trees and plants while they are healthy to make insurance processing simpler with "before and after" examples.

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), headquartered in Champaign, Ill., is a nonprofit organization supporting tree care research around the world. As part of ISA's dedication to the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees, it offers the only internationally-recognized certification program in the industry. For more information, contact a local ISA Certified Arborist or visit [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com).



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# An Impossible Dream Comes True – Finally

By Chuck Elkind

The years of one's youth are fertile ground for impossible dreams, no matter how far-fetched or grandiose. In keeping with this truism, in yesteryear I nourished three lofty scenarios.

The first was the fantasy of playing alongside Joe Di Maggio with the San Francisco Seals as the team battled arch rivals the Oakland Acorns and Mission Reds at the ballpark at 16th and Bryant streets.

Then there was the Walter Mitty sequence of hobnobbing with fellow *New Yorker* magazine contributors Robert Benchley, James Thurber and Dorothy Parker, and schmoozing at their favorite watering hole, the Big Apple's Algonquin Hotel.

Later I visualized playing in a group at a famous jazz joint like San Francisco's Club Alabam, Chicago's Mr. Kelley's, New York's Birdland, or the Hermosa Beach Lighthouse, a few miles south of LAX.

Although relishing these reveries, none came even close to materializing into reality. As it turned out, I was long on desire but short of patience. To validate the

point, one can touch the fast-forward key 60-odd years until reaching November 20 of last year.

And – Voila! – there I was on the Lighthouse bandstand with Bill Webster's Unabridged Big Band.

After the long wait, the joy of playing in the jazz shrine was scarcely diminished by the seediness. Clearly, the venue is a faded beauty of the past. Jazz ruled the roost at the Lighthouse then with giants like the Modern Jazz Quartet and Stan Kenton's All-Stars.

Now, jazz shares billing with groups playing Reggae, Salsa, Zydeco, and Hip-Hop.

But on that special day last November, Webster's Unabridged paid homage to jazz giants of the past in medleys with segments of Benny Goodman's "Let's Dance," Duke Ellington's "Take the 'A' Train" and Count Basie's "One O'Clock Jump."

Fittingly – though somewhat forlornly – the gig ended with the playing of "Things Ain't What They Used To Be."

*In fulfillment of another impossible dream, Chuck Elkind will be batting clean-up on Opening Day at SBC Park. (Just kidding.)*

## STARR KING MURAL



Fourth grade students at Starr King School on Potrero Hill created a mosaic mural honoring Civil Rights heroes Thomas Starr King, Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, and Enola D. Maxwell. The mural, which was unveiled and dedicated February 16, is installed on the school at the Carolina Street entrance. The mural was a service learning project of KIDSERVE and the Every Child Can Learn Foundation, with funds provided by The Walter & Elise Haas Fund, The Potrero Nuevo Fund, and Starbucks Grants for Giving Program.

Ruth Passen photo

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sitting with the other students in class without the hassle of entrance forms, fees, or homework. Members can use many campus facilities, including the library.

Other Sixty Plus activities include local and overnight tours, and attending the S.F. Symphony, the S.F. Ballet and many other Bay Area performing arts groups at reduced ticket prices. Membership is \$40 for first-time applicants who join between January 1 and August 31.

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# Hidden Streams of Potrero Hill

(Continued from Page 6)

around the hill, according to a Department of Public Works report.

"People forget where they are with respect to topography," said Grove. Development masks the hill's contours that would otherwise reveal where water naturally flows. But by looking at a topographic map, the small valleys that are likely to funnel surface runoff become apparent. Potrero Hill is roughly "Y" shaped, and water, pulled by gravity, flows between the ridges.

Satellite photos of the hill reveal lush backyards in the valleys compared with

neighboring ridges, said Christopher Richard, curator of aquatic biology at the Oakland Museum of California. This plant growth indicates that water is still winding its way down the hill north to Jackson Park, east to Potrero del Sol Park, and south down Connecticut to Cesar Chavez.


"We pretend we've overpowered Mother Nature," said Grove, explaining that paving over streams and building houses in the path of seasonal water flows doesn't get rid of the water. "The water will come out someplace."

Apparently, Stannard-Friel's basement is one of those places.



## Hill Schools Seek Volunteers

Did you know there are over fifteen-hundred students who attend five K-12 public schools in the Potrero Hill Neighborhood? Become a San Francisco School Volunteer and help one student or a whole classroom! You may help students learn to read, become fluent in English or pass a math exam. Potrero Hill schools also need volunteers who can help in the library, lead games on the playground or tutor high school students after school. San Francisco School Volunteers provides free training and can place you in a public school that will utilize your time and talents. To find out about upcoming volunteer orientations, call San Francisco School Volunteers at 415-749-3700 or visit their website at [www.sfsv.org](http://www.sfsv.org).



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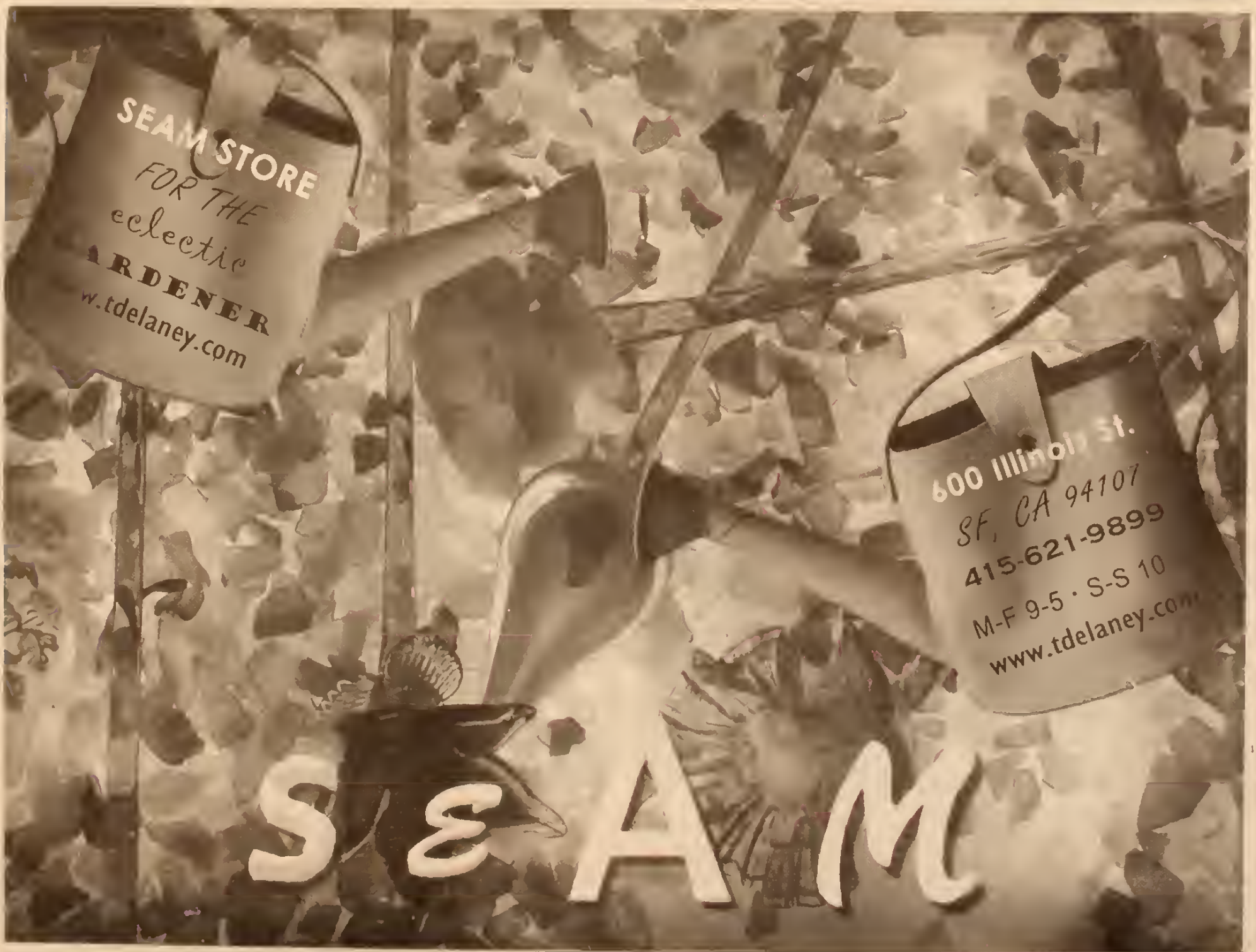
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# Home Ownership Remains a Challenge For Minorities

As the Bush administration touts an "ownership society" for the U.S., millions of Americans seek to join the ranks of homeowners. Although home ownership is at an all-time high, minority groups still lag behind their white counterparts.

According to Census data, only 49.1 percent of African-Americans and 48.9 percent of Hispanics own their own homes, while the national home ownership overall is 69.2 percent. Even though improvement is surely being made, a serious disparity remains.

Americans believe home ownership provides the best long-term investment potential, but there are several obstacles in the way of expanding this investment potential to minority families. These barriers are often due to a lack of home-buying knowledge, low incomes, and poor credit.

"Many African-Americans don't even realize that they can actually own a home," says Wade Timmerson, consultant and co-author of *Building Big Profits in Real Estate, A Guide for the New Investor*. "A lot of them think it is something that other people do." Timmerson and his partner, Suzanne Caplan, work to find solutions for minorities by teaching possible investors how to make that all-important first purchase.

Is this an area that offers opportunity

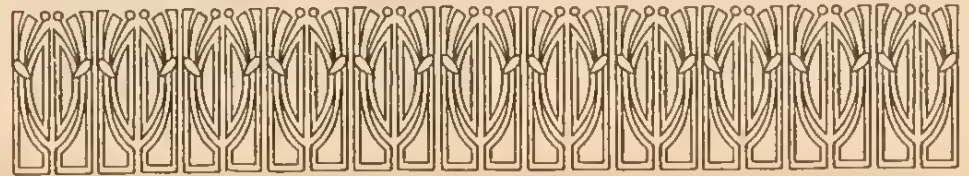
for first-time investors? Most definitely. As an investor, Timmerson helps the community by buying properties, fixing them up, and selling them on a "rent to own" program.

"Renting to own is home ownership in training," Timmerson says. "Regardless of your credit history, you can be on the path to home ownership."

The buyer will find several benefits by renting to own. They find the home they want and can set the selling price perhaps a year before the deal is consummated. An astute investor will work with the buyer to make sure they can secure a mortgage. After paying rent on time for a year and taking a credit repair course, money orders and cash will finally be replaced by checks. All of this will enable the buyer to create the documentation needed to secure a mortgage.

Timmerson has made over 100 of these deals, earning not only profit from the sale, but also the gratitude of the buyer. His book details how you can make money and strengthen the community at the same time. "It is our goal to turn people from tenant to homeowner to investor," he says.

For more info, contact Cassie Chenevert at [cassie@event-management.com](mailto:cassie@event-management.com).



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# VerPlanck and Dogpatch

(Continued from Page 10)

thought there might be some Peltons surviving in the Mission and Potrero. Together, they drove the neighborhoods until they came upon a cluster along Tennessee Street. Eventually, VerPlanck identified 13 Pelton homes lining stretches of Tennessee and Minnesota Streets, many in excellent condition.

"When I first stumbled upon Dogpatch, I remember thinking, 'What is this neighborhood doing here?' The way the old worker housing was connected to the waterfront industry, it just seemed like an old company town," he said. "It's one of the few neighborhoods to survive the devastation of 1906 so intact. I put it in the back of my mind to one day figure out who originally lived there and how it survived."

After receiving his degree, Chris moved to San Francisco and took a position at San Francisco Architectural Heritage, the City's premier historic preservation group. In his spare time, he began to add to his thesis research and further document the significance of Dogpatch. While shooting pictures of the neighborhood one Saturday in 1998, he met a neighbor who complained about the onslaught of demolitions and development that were beginning to change the face of the neighborhood. She introduced him to Rob Anderson, then president of the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association, who enlisted his help in finding a way to preserve the area's historic resources.

With the assistance of an intern, VerPlanck was able to leverage the resources of Architectural Heritage. Working evenings and weekends, he poured through old City directories, census records, and insurance maps. He compiled information on who lived in Dogpatch, what they did, where they were from. He studied ethnic and demographic configurations, and dug up information on where people worked. He published an article on Dogpatch that attracted Laura Maish and Bill Storage, a husband and wife team who volunteered to photographically document every property in Dogpatch.

In 1999, VerPlanck took a position as senior associate at Page & Turnbull, a San

Francisco preservation architecture firm. With the Central Waterfront building boom in full force the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association raised funds to commission VerPlanck's new employer to complete the research. VerPlanck filled out required application forms and wrote detailed profiles of each property, including date of construction, architectural features, information on families and boarders, significant contributions and how the building correlates to the neighborhood and local industries.

Completed in 2001, the 250-page Dogpatch Neighborhood Historic Resources study documented 123 significant properties and provided a compelling argument for defending the architectural and historic integrity of the district.

When VerPlanck started the project, Willie Brown tightly controlled City Hall, presiding over an administration that enthusiastically supported controversial development projects that threatened Dogpatch's historic resources. By the time the research was finished, a new crop of district-elected supervisors were swept into office, including Maxwell and Peskin. VerPlanck says the timing and dynamics of this "new political landscape" is what finally made the Dogpatch Historic District a possibility.

"What I am most proud of is that we got landmark status for a neighborhood that is not considered high class," he says. "Most people associate San Francisco with high-style Victorian neighborhoods like Pacific Heights. This is the first historic district that celebrates working class housing. To me that is very significant."

Susan Eslick, current president of the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association, says VerPlanck had more than just the right credentials to influence the politicians, bureaucrats and neighbors who mattered most in the historic effort. "His style fit the character of Dogpatch," she said. "He's not some boring academic. He's genuine. He's funny. He's a little bit quirky. He's kind of a vintage guy."

*John Borg lives and works in Dogpatch, and joined neighbors in supporting the Dogpatch Historic District.*



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## Five Things You Should Know About eRecycling

What do actors Jeff Goldblum (*Jurassic Park*, *The Fly*) and Esai Morales (*NYPD Blue*, *La Bamba*) have in common with California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger? Other than the fact that they are celebrities, they also all live in the state of California...and actively support eRecycling.

That's right — *eRecycling*. And Goldblum and Morales have also lent their voices to California's groundbreaking eRecycle campaign. So what, exactly, is eRecycling, anyway? That's a question that more and more Californians have been asking since January 1st, when the state's new eRecycling law went into effect.

Do you eRecycle? Do you know what you need to do to join Jeff, Esai and Arnold as supporters of the practice? If you read the five slices of eRecycling information below, you'll be off to a good start. These are the basic facts that every Californian should know regarding eRecycling:

1. In California, we suffer from a serious glut of electronic waste, or "e-waste." That is to say old electronic products — including TVs and computer monitors — we simply no longer have use for. Each year in our state we replace hundreds of thousands of electronic devices with the newer, faster, latest and greatest versions. What happens to the old ones? More often than not, they gather dust in our homes, garages, and businesses because we simply don't know what to do with them.

2. Do you know that it is actually against the law throw many of these items in the trash? That's because they're banned from California landfills. By recycling these items, we help the environment while preserving some of the valuable contents of the e-waste such as metals, plastics, and glass.

3. California is the first state in the nation to take a proactive role in making it easier to deal with the e-waste issue. The California Electronic Waste Recycling Act sets up a nominal fee (\$6 to \$10 for each covered product purchased) that will enable the state set up a system making recycling our TVs and computer monitors safer and cheaper in the future.

4. Thanks to this new eRecycle initiative, more and more Californians are beginning to move what were once heavy dust-collectors out of our garages to eRecycling centers. More importantly, by eRecycling those old computer monitors and TV screens we no longer care about anyway, we are taking a big step toward helping preserve natural resources, protecting our environment and creating new jobs in the state.

5. You can learn all about this initiative by visiting [www.eRecycle.org](http://www.eRecycle.org). This website is designed to be a one-stop shop for information on how to manage unwanted electronics. Through the site, you can find out where recycling opportunities exist near you — and some interesting facts and figures pertaining to e-waste as well.

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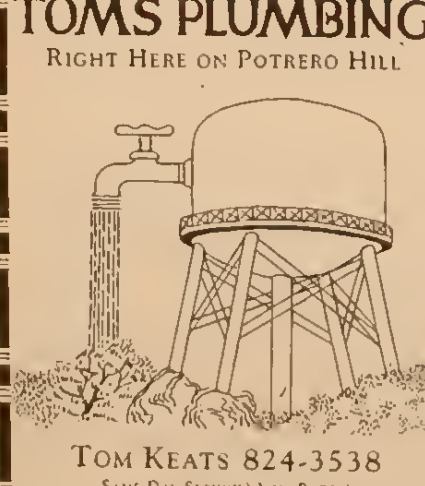
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Minimum: \$10 for 4 lines, 40 characters (including spaces) per line.  
Additional lines: \$1 each  
Deadline: 20 of the month  
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**ARTIST/WRITERS RETREAT.** Pennies Haven is a cozy, rural sanctuary with privacy and comfort. Private bath, small kitchen. Grants Pass, Oregon. \$275 week. Call 541-476-9074 for reservations.

**POTRERO FLAT FOR RENT.** 2 BR, 1 bath, unfurn. \$1,895. Quiet, sunny cityside, near UCSF Mission Bay. 234 Mississippi (btwn 18th & Mariposa). 1 yr lease. 1-800-910-2345, fax 408-272-8590.

**OVER FIFTY FITNESS** – Get started right! Personal trainer Cinder Ernst can help you gain fitness and mobility painlessly. Two 1/2 hour sessions a week will begin to increase your strength, flexibility, and cardio-vascular health. Cinder works at World Gym and offers many different plans to get you moving in the right direction. For more info, call 415-699-5797 or visit cinderernst.com

**BEGINNING MOSAIC WORKSHOPS** with longtime Hill artist. Create an original mosaic stepping stone. Visit [www.jonieisen.com](http://www.jonieisen.com) or call 415-648-6740.

**JOB OPENING: ADMINISTRATIVE.** Customer service and production for a small, high-end furniture designer/maker. Need to be well organized, have strong communication skills, be proficient with Mac, and be able to prioritize, meet deadlines, and work with minimum supervision. Potrero Hill studio. Fax resume to 415-206-0255.

**COMPUTER HELP –PV, NETWORK & ISP CONSULTING:** Troubleshooting, training, installation, repairs, and upgrades for home users and local businesses. Evenings and weekends only. Reasonable rates. Established professionals moonlighting. Mario, evenings 415-753-8244, cell 415-850-4047.

**MASSAGE, MASSAGE, MASSAGE!!!** Potrero Hill Healing Arts has fantastic new massage therapists right here on the Hill above Farley's coffeehouse. \$70/hr. 1317 18th Street. Call 415-282-2574. You'll love them

**DID YOU GO TO ST. TERESA'S SCHOOL** between 1967 and 1974? If so, please contact Rose Marie Ostler at 415-641-9332.

**WALKING PARTNERS WANTED.** Small group of women looking for other women to join them on weekday morning walks, 5-6 a.m., on the Hill. Call Ruth at 415-738-0420.

**POTRERO HILL LOCKSMITH.** Home, auto, commercial. Licensed. Bonded. Free estimates. Call 415-602-4964.

**GOURMET VEGETARIAN CUISINE:** Delivered to your doorstep. Diverse menus, naturally low in fat, cholesterol & salt. Treat yourself right! Gift cert. avail. For menus call Jane 826-2133, [www.pealcuisine.com](http://www.pealcuisine.com)

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**CHARMING GARDEN APARTMENT.** Short-term rental, 2-day minimum. French doors, fireplace, deck and patio. 641-4488.

**PAINTING & CARPENTRY:** Int. & exterior painting, seismic & structural foundation work, dryrot/pest report work, plumbing, electrical, roof repairs, tile, even tree trimming and hauling! Cal. lic. #751689. Far West Restorations, Jim Kennedy, 415-661-3724.

**OVERWHELMED BY CLUTTER? RELOCATING?** As featured on HGTV, NPR and in the Chronicle, ShipShape offers expert, simple solutions to what goes where. We will cut through clutter, defrazzle moves & restore simplicity and peace of mind to busy lives. Homes, offices, packing, and more. Free phone consult. [www.ShipShape.com/415-550-0658](http://www.ShipShape.com/415-550-0658).

**SENIORS (60+) DON'T EAT ALONE JOIN US FOR DAILY LUNCH AND ADD TO YOUR SOCIAL LIFE:** Mon-Fri, hot nutritious meals – your first time with us you get a free lunch! Bingo, cards, birthday celebrations, special events, and other activities. For more information call Dolores Maghari @ 826-8080. PH Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro.

**POTRERO HILL RENTALS.** Are you needing excellent tenants? Are you looking for a new home? Ford Real Estate offers tenant placement. Call 824-7200 or visit [www.FordRealEstate.com](http://www.FordRealEstate.com)

**SPACIOUS AND BEAUTIFUL** furnished garden guest apartment w/kitchen. Private. 1/2 blk to restaurants. Non-smoking. Short term only. 861-3208.

**VISITORS WELCOME:** Comfortable, quiet Potrero Hill garden apt avail for short-term rental. Furnished, full kitchen/bath, private entrance, North Slope. Sleeps 4+. Non-smoking. Great for friends and family. 285-0251.

**TIRED OF SQUEEZING** out-of-town parents or friends into your already jammed home? Visiting the City on a temporary business assignment? Charming fully furnished studio available on a short-time basis. Cable TV, stereo, VCR, kitchen, full bath, laundry, garden. Lots of parking next to open space, Bernal Heights, across from the Hill. Call 415-285-7064 or [www.janiesnest.com](http://www.janiesnest.com).

**END HOMEWORK HASSLES:** Family time is better spent. Call Jane Radcliffe, 415-586-4577 or visit [www.mystudybuddy.org](http://www.mystudybuddy.org)

**STORAGE SPACE NEEDED.** Do you have a large empty basement, garage, or storefront on Potrero Hill you wouldn't mind renting for storage? I'm a responsible Hill resident looking for a nearby place to store furniture — I'm out of room at my own place. Please call Dave at 415-550-4051

**ORGANIZE ME!** As a home organizer specializing in working with families, teens, and seniors. I can help you and yours bring order into your home, and keep it that way. If it's just a closet, a room, or all about the house, I can help you reclaim space and bring new clarity into your life. I am a long-time Potrero Hill resident, my fees are reasonable. Call Linda at 415-285-3266.

**CHARMING POTRERO HILL COTTAGE.** One room cottage, fully furnished, linens, towels, dishes, etc. Woodburning fireplace, clawfoot tub. Deck overlooking garden. Private entrance. Cable TV. Washer/dryer. This one-of-a-kind cottage is ideal for one person. Available by week or month. 415-643-3500.

**DOG & CAT NAIL CLIPPING.** I am a professional groomer with 10 years experience. \$10 — no pet too big or too small. Debbie, 415-826-2371.



**COLOR CONSULTING** — Interior & Remodeling Design. 180 Degree Design. Trouble picking out those perfect colors for the exterior or interior of your home? Want a newly designed kitchen, bathroom, or business? Kathyjean Boise is a featured designer on HGTV. For the professional help you need to make the perfect atmosphere, call 180 Degree Design, 415-285-3014.

**FULL SERVICE GARDENER.** Wake up one fine spring day to a blossoming paradise in your garden. Now is the time to clean up, plan it, and plant it. Maintenance, renovation, organic soil building. California native plants a specialty. Call Jeannine Zenti at 415-642-0246.

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**PIANO LESSONS** with patience and humor. All ages, all styles. Former member of Pickle Family Circus and SF Mime Troupe. Randy Craig 415-334-2451.

**HOUSEKEEPER AVAILABLE.** 12 yrs experience in home and apt cleaning. Reliable. Excellent refs. Local. Call Grant 415-665-2745.

**LICENSED PAINTER.** Interior & exterior. Plaster & drywall repair. Lic#497-214. Free estimate. Small jobs OK. Please call Ed at 995-4666.

**CHARLIE THE PHONE GUY:** Residence, business, home office phone wiring. Fax, modem, DSL. Dead jacks made live! Free estimates, On-time appointments. Call 415-641-8654 or e-mail [charlie@sfphoneguy.com](mailto:charlie@sfphoneguy.com)

**CAT SITTING ON HILL:** SPCA volunteer and cat lover. References. Trudi, 285-5526.

**LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE & HEALTH INSURANCE:** For individuals, families, self-employed, and businesses. Free, no-pressure consultation. A+ plans. Serving Potrero Hill & Noe Valley for over 16 years. Bill Hannant, 415-647-7012. Long-Term-Care website [www.billhannant.com](http://www.billhannant.com).



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**HOMESELLERS:** Find out what the home down the street sold for! Free computerized list of area home sales and current listing. Visit [www.freeshomeinfo.com](http://www.freeshomeinfo.com).

**MASSAGE, SWEDISH/DEEP TISSUE** on Hill. Therapeutic, professional, 10 yrs exp. \$50/ hour. Trudi, 285-5526.

**CUSTOM CARPENTRY.** Do you need some custom furniture designed and built? I specialize in beautiful built-in pieces that will become so much a part of your home that they will look like they've always been there. I'm happy to build to your specifications or help you design what you need. Side-step the interior designer maze and go straight to the source. E-mail [andtew@picon.com](mailto:andtew@picon.com) or call 415-647-6397.



Happy Birthday . . .

**HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY:** Sholem Alecheim (1859), Sally Burns, Black men win right to vote (1870), Luther Burbank (on Arbor Day 3/7/1849), Cesar Chavez (1927), Pat Cleaver, Ornette Coleman (1930), Helen Callaghan (1929), Pat Cleveland, Carol Cuenod, Nanette Dorr, Wyatt Earp (1846), Easter (3/27), Veva Edelson, Albert Einstein (1879), Robert Frost (S.F. 1874), Dave Fujimoto, Forgive Mom and Dad Day (3/18), first message transmitted by telephone (1876), first Dixieland jazz record (1917), Bryne Golec, Emma Goldman (1869), Ernesto Hernandez, Lol Halsey, Rebecca & Jeff Hosterler. Int'l. Women's Day (3/8), Iranian New Year (3/21), Peter Linenthal, Della Lopipero, Lazy Moocher's Day (3/27), Matt Meblin, Katherine McNeil, Tom Murray, National Procrastination Week (3/6-12), Ovid (43 B.C.), Steve Passin, Purim (14 Adar, 5765), Carl Reiner, Archbishop Oscar Romero assassinated (El Salvador, 1980), Maribel Rodriguez, St. Patrick's Day (3/17), Stock Market Crash (N.Y., 1907), Sally Seymour, Harriet Tubman (1913), Amerigo Vespucci (1451), Steve Voris, LaVette Virden, Jane Wenham tried as witch for talking to her cat and flying (1712).

Happy St.  
Patrick's Day!

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